

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 24, 2005. Claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 16 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 15 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns managing an image processing apparatus that may be used by a plurality of users. To facilitate management of the image processing apparatus, user profiles are stored in the apparatus. Each user profile corresponds to a user. Each user profile also contains adjust information on how to adjust an image during processing. When a user requests a print job, a user profile corresponding to the user is retrieved. The adjustment information contained in the user profile is used to adjust images in the print job. In this way, individual users may have their own user profiles for adjusting images without interfering with other users of the image processing apparatus. In addition, the user profiles need not be carried with the print job as only a user's identification is needed to retrieve and use the user profile at the time the image is processed.

Turning now to specific claim language, amended Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus comprising: a storage means for storing user profiles for a plurality of users, the user profiles containing information for adjusting the output of a print job; an input means for inputting the print job, the print job containing a plurality of printing objects; and an adjustment means for specifying a user who instructs the print job according to print job information and

adjusting an object of the plurality of printing objects on the basis of a user profile from the user profiles, the user profile corresponding to the specified user.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected partially on the basis that there was no antecedent basis for “the user profile.” Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a user profile is selected from the user profiles. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the user profile corresponds to the user instructing the print job.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 was also rejected partially on the basis that the print job does not include nor require printing instructions, thus making the claim unclear. However, Claim 1 provides for specifying a user who instructs the print job according to print job information. Once the user is specified then the user’s user profile may be the basis for adjusting an object found in the print job. Therefore, the print job information does indirectly include printing information as a specified user. It is this specified user that is used to determine a user profile that directly contains the adjustment information. In addition, the dependent claims feature various ways in which an object may be adjusted based in the information in the user profile. As an example, Claim 2 recites that the adjustment means performs tone adjustment on the basis of the user profile.

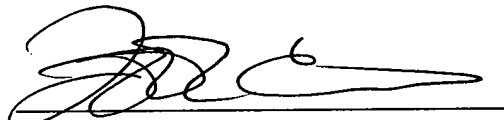
Amended Claims 15 and 16 correspond to a method and a storage medium which stores a computer-readable program, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 1. Applicant submits that the remarks above in support of amended Claim 1 apply equally to amended Claims 15 and 16.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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